



BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 11, No. 24 January 12, 1987

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to Pasadena
this year

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Pro Bowl are
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game preview

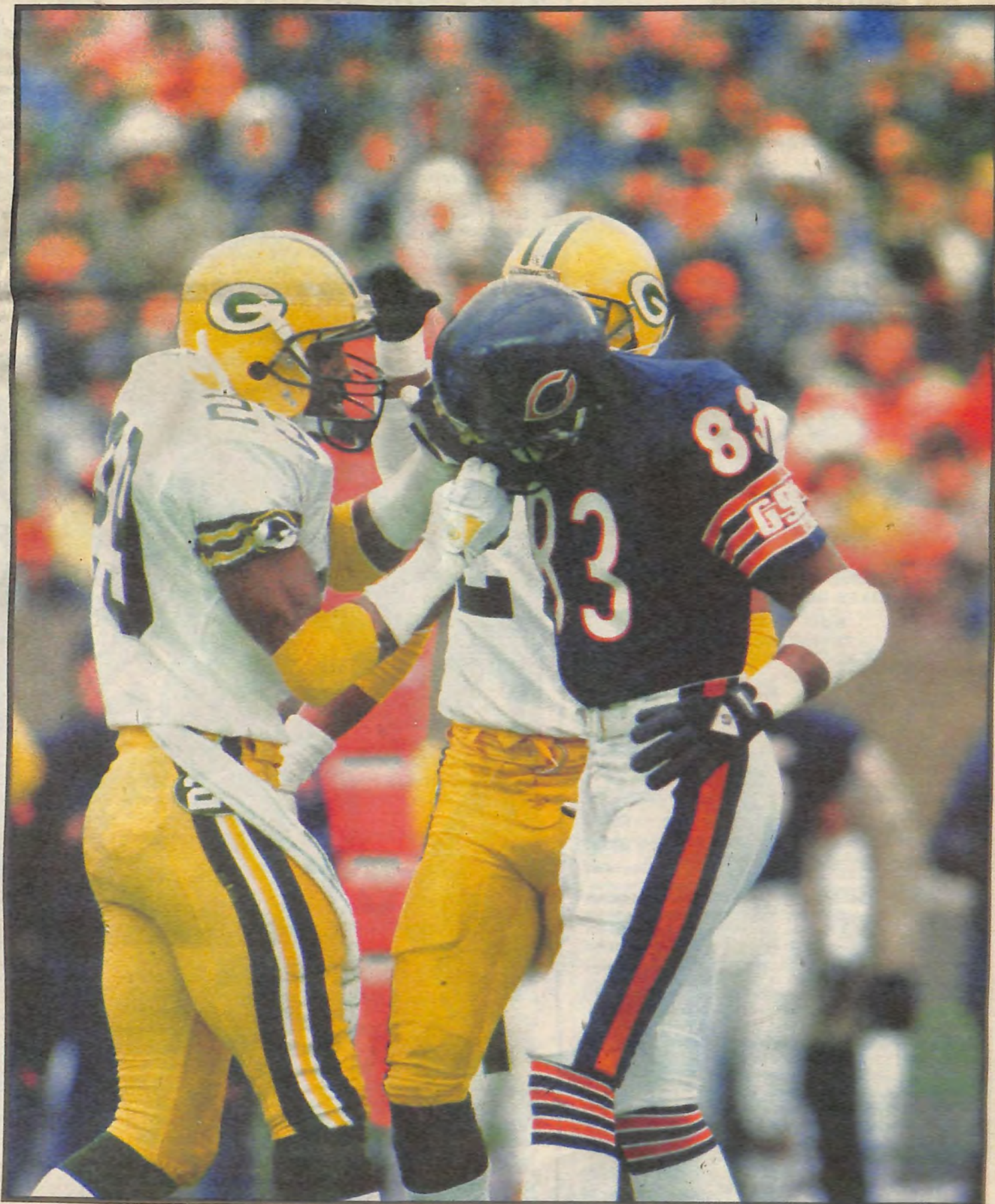
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A newspaper devoted exclusively
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL
Vol. 11, No. 24 January 12, 1987

On the cover...

All season it's been a struggle for the Bears, like when the Packers' Ken Stills yanked on Willie Gault's facemask in the second Bear-Packer game this year. And on Saturday it ended with the loss to the Redskins. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Bears gave fans great year

Everyone knew going into the game against Washington that turnovers could hurt the Bears. And turnovers did end up to be their downfall.

I think the Bears could have given the Giants all they could handle if they met in the championship game. But the turnovers did them in against the Redskins. And really, the game was a lot closer than the score would indicate.

If the Bears scored early in the second half instead of fumbling the ball, they could have taken a 20-7 lead and been in command of the game. Unfortunately, it didn't happen that way.

Despite the loss to the Redskins we should all be proud of the year Chicago had. The Bears overcame a lot of adversity to come this far, and that says a lot about the character of this team.

I wouldn't be worried about the day Doug Flutie had. He did well, especially for a guy who only came to the organization a month ago. Remember, not only did he have to learn an entirely new system in that time, he had to master it in time to go against the best teams in the league.

Sometimes, too, people forget Flutie isn't a veteran quarterback. He's not someone who's been around awhile and can pick up on a system quickly.

And yet, he showed a lot of promise. Wait until you see how he does next year after he has a training camp under his belt. I think you'll see a lot of good things from him.

Also looking ahead to next year, Bear fans should keep

a close eye on Minnesota. The Vikings just missed out on the playoffs this year and they could make winning the division difficult for the Bears. Those divisional games will be even more important next year for Chicago.

Coach Mike Ditka knows the changes he'll need to make to get the Bears back in the Super Bowl. I'm sure the Bears will have a little different look next year.

But between now and then, the Bears have some important things to do. The first is probably preparing for the draft. Depth is needed in some areas, and Chicago will want to take care of those needs first.

The players need to keep in good condition during the offseason, and I'm sure they'll come back with the determination needed to get to the Super Bowl.

The other thing Chicago needs to look at is the quarterback situation. But that probably won't get any clearer until training camp begins.

One area the Bears don't have to look at is the offensive line. I think it's still the best in the league. Chicago proved it by leading the league in rushing for the fourth year in a row.

But with improvements in their depth and a stable quarterback situation the Bears should be contending for the Super Bowl again next year.

For now, though, all we can do is thank the Bears for the season they had and hope they can give us another good one next year.



Jim Morrissey takes aim on Washington's Dwight Garner on special teams during the Bears' loss to the Redskins Saturday at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

The Dream Is Over

Turnovers cancel Bears' trip to Pasadena

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

CHICAGO - This whole season people around the NFL were waiting for the Bears to fall apart. From the quarterback controversy to the Mike Ditka-Jim McMahon feuds to the three-point overtime wins, people were waiting for that one thing to happen that would take down the Bears.

On Saturday at Soldier Field, it finally happened. But instead of one thing, it turned out to be a number of things that plagued the Bears all year long that did them in. Turnovers, some communication problems on defense and a quarterback without much NFL experience combined to be too much for Chicago to overcome. The result was a 27-13 loss to Washington in the NFC divisional playoffs.

There will be no Super Bowl Shuffle in Pasadena this year.

"It's a big disappointment," Bears coach Mike Ditka said. "But I'm sure if I stay in this business long enough there'll be other losses that are more disappointing and other wins that are more rewarding."

Said center Jay Hilgenberg, "I wouldn't call this success at all. If anyone calls this success they'll probably be out of a job real soon. It was frustrating all year. When we had momentum going there'd be stuff to bring us down."

Bears follow trend and fail to repeat

The Bears had a rare opportunity — to repeat as Super Bowl champions. Missing out on that opportunity probably is what hurts the most.

"Because I know in my heart what we have, we had a great opportunity. To lose it is devastating," middle linebacker Mike Singletary said. "We've done a good job to stay on top. We made it, then we gave it away."

The Bears gave it away mainly with four turnovers and a couple of costly penalties.

With the Bears leading 13-7 midway through the third quarter Doug Flutie threw his second interception of the game when a pass intended for Tim Wrightman was picked off by Darrell Green at Chicago's 43 and returned to the 26.

"Tim was open up the middle. The ball just sailed on me and went up over his head," Flutie said.

Washington's Jay Schroeder then hit Art Monk against a Chicago blitz for a 23-yard touchdown pass and a 14-13 Washington lead. With the Bears blitzing, Mike Richardson had single coverage on Monk and lost him on an inside move that broke Monk free.

"It's tough when you have a blitz on not to jump on the first move," Richardson said.

"He's trying to make the interception and you can't fault a guy for that," Ditka said.

The Bears' blitz wasn't very effective at any point during the game. Singletary said part of that was because the Bears didn't disguise it well, and other times Washington was looking for it. "At times we had to blitz to make something happen. And the offense is going to look for the blitz in that situation," he said.

Receivers allowed to get open

Ditka said another problem with the blitz was that Washington's receivers were not getting bumped at the line when Chicago had the blitz on.

The Bears also gave the ball away on their next possession after Washington took the lead. After Dennis Gentry returned the kickoff 48 yards to the Washington 42 the Bears moved to the Redskins' 13. But Darryl Grant forced a fumble by Walter Payton at the 17, and Washington's Alvin Walton came up with the ball.

The turnover led to another Washington touchdown. But the Redskins also were helped on the drive by two Bear penalties. The first came when the Redskins faced a 3rd and 6 at the Bear 29-yard line. Schroeder's pass on the play fell incomplete, but Dan Hampton was called for offsidelines to give Washington a 3rd and 1 situation which it converted.

On the next play Richardson was called for pass interference in the end zone, giving Washington the ball at the 1. On second and goal George Rogers scored for a 21-13 Washington lead early in the fourth quarter.

Jess Atkinson put the game out of reach for Washington with field goals of 35 and 25 yards in the fourth quarter.

"I don't think we played well, that's for sure," Singletary said. "I don't think we were consistent. We didn't do the little things today — communication, working with one another and thinking — I don't think we did that. And that's the thing that hurt us the most."

"I know guys on defense wanted to make big plays and wanted to come through. It just didn't happen."



Art Monk's 28-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter gave Washington an early 7-0 lead in its 27-13 upset of the Bears Saturday at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Opportunities are wasted again

The Bears had opportunities to put the game out of reach in the first half, but like all season long, the offense couldn't convert on good field position.

Gentry ran the opening kickoff to the Redskins' 35, and after a first down Chicago moved the ball to the 24. But a holding penalty on Keith Ortego pushed the Bears back to the 34. Kevin Butler eventually came in to try a 49-yard field goal, but he missed.

Midway through the second quarter with the score tied at 7 Schroeder threw a pass into the hands of Richardson at Washington's 47-yard line, and Richardson returned the ball to the Redskin four.

But Chicago's offense could only move one yard back on three plays, so Butler kicked a 23-yard field goal for a 10-7 Bears lead.

Chicago added one more field goal in the half with 1:26 left to take a 13-7 lead. The Bears were helped on the short drive by a 20-yard penalty against Washington's Dexter Manley. Manley jumped offsidelines on a play for one penalty, then hit Flutie after the whistle for a roughing the quarterback penalty.

That moved the ball to the Redskins' 36-yard line. Eight plays later Butler kicked a 41-yard field goal for the final points of the half.

"We ran some goal line plays and just couldn't make them work," Ditka said. "We had some stupid penalties that really hurt us in key situations. You can't do that against a good football team."

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Bears-Redskins Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Washington Redskins.....7 0 7 13 — 27
 Chicago Bears.....0 13 0 0 — 13
 Washington Redskins, 1, 12:45, Monk, 28-yard pass from Schroeder, Atkinson kick, 7-0
 Chicago Bears, 2, 4:53, Gault, 50-yd. pass from Flutie, Butler kick, 7-7
 Chicago Bears, 2, 8:58, Butler, 23-yard field goal, 7-10
 Chicago Bears, 2, 13:34, Butler, 41-yard field goal, 7-13
 Washington Redskins, 3, 7:51, Monk, 23-yard pass from Schroeder, Atkinson kick, 14-13
 Washington Redskins, 4, :53, Rogers, 1-yard run, Atkinson kick, 21-13
 Washington Redskins, 4, 6:54, Atkinson, 35-yard field goal, 24-13
 Washington Redskins, 4, 12:35, Atkinson, 25-yard field goal, 27-13
 Attendance: 65,141; tickets distributed: 66,030; Unused: 889, time: 3:25
 Weather: Sunny, high 40's, humidity 64; temperature: 35; wind and direction: NW at 6 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Redskins	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	19	14
By Rushing	8	8
By Passing	8	5
By Penalty	3	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	6-16	1-11
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	1-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	302	220
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	73	56
Av. Gain per Off. Play	4.1	3.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	134	93
Total Rushing Plays	39	24
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.4	3.9
NET YARDS PASSING	168	127
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	2-16	1-7
Gross Yds. Passing	184	134
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	32-15-1	31-11-2
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	4.9	4.0
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	7-39.3	5-40.6
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	126	229
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	3-22	5-27
No. and Yds. KO Returns	3-71	6-159
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	2-33	1-43
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	8-65	4-42
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-0	3-2
TOUCHDOWNS	3	1
Rushing	1	0
Passing	2	1
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	3-3	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	2-3	2-3
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:44	26:16

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Washington Redskins						
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Gain	TD
Rogers	28	72	2.6	9	1	
Bryant	8	46	5.8	12	0	
Schroeder	3	16	5.3	11	0	
PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD
Schroeder	32	15	184	2/16	2	28
PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD		
Warren	1	5	5	0		
Clark	5	37	13	0		
Bryant	4	61	24	0		
Monk	5	81	28	2		
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD		
Dean	1	16	16	0		
Green	1	17	17	0		
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Cox	7	275	39.3	0	1	54
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD	
Yarber	3	1	22	8	0	
*Out of bounds	1					
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD		
Garner	3	71	36	0		



Washington's Kelvin Bryant is stopped by a gang of Bears for no gain Saturday during Washington's 27-13 upset of the Bears at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Garner	1	0	0	0	0
Yarber	0	1	0	0	0
Schroeder	1	0	0	0	0
Thielemann	0	1	0	0	0

Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Gain	TD
Payton	14	38	2.7	9	0	
Suhey	4	14	3.5	5	0	
Thomas	3	18	6.0	13	0	
Flutie	2	12	6.0	11	0	
Anderson	1	11	11.0	11	0	

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
Flutie	31	11	134	1/7	1	50	2	

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gault	5	82	50	1
Wrightman	2	16	9	0
Ortego	2	36	27	0
Payton	1	-2	-2	0
Suhey	1	2	2	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Richardson	1	43	43	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Buford	5	203	40.6	0	0	49

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Barnes	5	0	27	23	0
*Downed	2				

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Gentry	3	127	60	0
Thomas	2	15	11	0
Anderson	1	17	17	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Flutie	1	1	0	0	0
Payton	1	0	0	0	0
Barnes	1	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)

Washington Redskins

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Jordan	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bowles	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Green	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dean	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Walton	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
Morrison	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Coffey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coleman	4	2	0	0	0	2	1
Olkewicz	8	2	1	7	0	0	0
Daniels	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milot	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butz	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beasley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mann	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Manley	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yarber	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Thielemann	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Forced Fumbles: Darryl Grant 1

Chicago Bears

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	5	0	1	8	0	1	0
Richardson	5	2	0	0	1	1	0
Fencik	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	8	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
Marshall	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
Perry	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	1	2	1/2	0	0	0	0
Hampton	4	3	1/2	8	0	0	0
Flutie	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Becker	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bortz	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hilgenberg	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: Vestee Jackson 1

Pro Bowl, Chicago are synonymous

The Bears employ 13 players who either are going to the Pro Bowl or have been there recently. There are at least a half dozen others who either should have been chosen or soon figure to join their teammates in Hawaii.

With 13 on the roster who have been chosen by their peers to represent the conference, the Bears have more starters who are among the best in football at their positions than starters who have yet to get that recognition.

Starting for the Bears and going to the Pro Bowl are becoming synonymous.

For the first time in their history, the Dallas Cowboys failed to send a single player to the Pro Bowl. When the Bears went to Dallas for the regular season finale, newspapers wondered whether a single Dallas defensive player could start for the Bears' defense.



By
Don
Pierson

Think about it. The Dallas Cowboys looking up to the Bears as role models.

This is a remarkable accomplishment for one team. It is another tribute to personnel director Bill Tobin, scouts Jim Farmer, Don King, and Rod Graves, and assistant Ken Geiger.

It also serves as great incentive for players, even though the game is a silly exercise in how to avoid sweating in a tropical stadium.

McMichael irate at other players

The voting by players never fails to raise questions of fairness from both the chosen and the snubbed.

"I'm a little irate at the guys around this league," said defensive tackle Steve McMichael. "Last year, they didn't vote me in. This year they do and leave Richard and Dan off. Doesn't make any sense."

Richard Dent and Dan Hampton had Pro Bowl years. So did just about every end in the NFC East.

"There's nobody blocking over there," Dent noticed.

Only four Bears went from the defensive unit compared to five last year. McMichael and linebacker Wilber Marshall joined linebacker Mike Singletary and strong safety Dave Duerson. Left behind from last year's ballot were Hampton, Dent, and linebacker Otis Wilson.

"It's a travesty," McMichael said. "We're No. 1 on defense three years in a row. Should be at least eight of us going."

Safeties Gary Fencik and Todd Bell have made the team before. Cornerback Mike Richardson led the team with seven interceptions and said: "Nobody in the NFC or the AFC is playing better than me."

William "The Refrigerator" Perry is the only defensive lineman who hasn't been chosen, and he plays against the run as well as any defensive tackle in the league.

Perry's weight again became a concern when CBS commentator John Madden mentioned he was over 350 before the Dallas game. Coach Mike Ditka revealed he had fined Perry three times in addition to the automatic \$2,000 a week he lost for 17 weeks for failing to make weight.

Ditka admitted this was disappointing.

"He played well, but it bothers me. I'm not worried about how he's playing; I want him to be alive when he's 29 years old. I told him that honestly," Ditka said.

"He's playing good, but is he playing his best? We don't care if he plays good. Good won't get you where you're going. You can't settle for anything less than excellent."

"If he was at the weight he was at last year, I don't think anybody could handle him."

Ditka was especially pleased to see McMichael get recognition because he is a team player who works hard within the system.

The Bears were disappointed that all three of their linebackers didn't get to go. They wanted to be the first group to be voted to the game intact since Jack Lambert, Jack



Walter Payton has been a perennial pro bowler for the Bears and Mark Bortz this year was named to the Sports Illustrated all-pro team.

Ham, and Andy Russell of the 1976 Pittsburgh Steelers.

Ditka loves his linebackers

"As good as Otis has played in the past, this was his best year," Ditka said. "Mike is the best middle linebacker in football."

As for Marshall, Ditka raved: "We've got a guy out there who plays football as good as I've ever seen it played."

Duerson was simply the best safety in football this year. His seven sacks and six interceptions was testimony to his versatility and representative of the whole defense.

On offense, Walter Payton was chosen for the ninth time, breaking the club record of eight held by Bill George, Doug Atkins, and Dick Butkus.

The Bears became the first team since the 1939-42 Bears to lead the league in rushing four years in a row,

so it was no surprise that tackle Jimbo Covert and center Jay Hilgenberg were picked for the second year in a row.

Guards Mark Bortz and Tom Thayer and tackle Keith Van Horne aren't far behind. In fact, Bortz was chosen to Sports Illustrated's all-pro team by respected writer Paul Zimmerman.

No wide receiver is more valuable to his team than Willie Gault. Put Emery Moorehead and Tim Wrightman together and their statistics stack up with the top tight ends.

It was on special teams that the Bears thought they deserved more consideration.

Dennis Gentry led the league in kickoff returns, even though the defense didn't allow opponents the luxury of

Continued Next Page

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Notebook

Continued From Page 7

"He is in jeopardy of not being here if he doesn't want to take off the weight," Ditka said. "He could be in a different color jersey next year. This isn't a process of the tail wagging the dog. Either the dog wags the tail or the tail no longer is a part of it."

But Perry doesn't think he's overweight, saying, "I'm playing the run and the pass better than last year."

But the Bears maintain that Perry could be playing even better if he was at a lower weight.

•**THREE BEARS WERE NAMED** to the starting unit of the Associated Press all-pro team last week.

Linebackers Wilber Marshall and Mike Singletary and offensive tackle Jim Covert were named to AP's first team.

Five other Bears, running back Walter Payton, center Jay Hilgenberg, defensive end Dan Hampton, defensive tackle Steve McMichael and safety Dave Duerson, were named to the second team.

Kick returner Dennis Gentry made honorable mention.

Four members of the New York Giants and three Los Angeles Rams made the first team.

Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor made the team again this year and has now made the team each of the six years he's been in the NFL. Other Giants named were tight end

Mark Bavaro, running back Joe Morris and punter Sean Landeta.

From the Rams, Eric Dickerson made the team for the fourth year in a row. The other two Rams to make the team were offensive guard Dennis Harrah and cornerback Le-Roy Irvin.

Others named to the starting offensive team were quarterback Dan Marino of Miami, wide receivers Jerry Rice of San Francisco and Al Toon of the New York Jets, tackle Anthony Munoz of Cincinnati, guard Bill Fralic of Atlanta and center Dwight Stephenson of Miami.

Rounding out the defensive team are defensive ends Dexter Manley of Washington and Rulon Jones of Denver, Reggie White of Philadelphia at tackle, Bill Pickel of the Raiders at nose tackle, Karl Mecklenburg of Denver at linebacker, cornerbacks Hanford Dixon of Cleveland and Deron Cherry of Kansas City, and safety Ronnie Lott.

Other specialists to make the team are kicker Morten Andersen of New Orleans and punt returner Bobbie Joe Edmonds of Seattle, the only rookie on the team.

Playoffs

Continued From Page 12

ing experience. "It wasn't a situation to learn," he said. "It was a situation where I try to go out and win."

Said Ditka about Flutie's performance, "He didn't have his best day. The kid will bounce back."

•**SATURDAY'S GAME FEATURED** a match-up between the Bears' Willie Gault and Washington defensive back Darrell Green, the NFL's fastest man.

Gault managed to put a move on Green that led to a 50-yard touchdown pass he caught from Flutie for Chicago's only touchdown of the game.

"Any time you get man-to-man coverage on a guy like Darrell Green, who's so fast and so quick and aggressive, you can hook and go on him," Gault said. "We set it up on a couple of earlier routes. Once the ball came I saw the weak safety coming over. I didn't think I could beat him for the touchdown so I split the two."

The move worked perfectly for one of the few plays Bear fans had to cheer about during the game.

Pierson

Continued From Page 5

kicking off much.

Maury Buford moved up to second in the NFC in punting, mainly through the amazing coverage efforts of No. 1 draft choice Neal Anderson.

With a special category for special teams cover man, the Bears thought Anderson was worthy.

"He was the rookie of the year, no doubt about it. He just didn't get to play enough," said Ditka.

Anderson looks like a future Pro Bowler on a team that isn't old. The National Football League should originate all flights to Hawaii in Chicago.

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As the Bears prepared for last Saturday's playoff game against Washington, they kept things quiet while practicing in Suwanee, Ga.

That's quite a change from last year, when the Bears were enjoying all the pageantry of the playoffs while practicing at the Falcons' training facility.

Dan Hampton, who has not talked to the press since early in the season, and now Gary Fencik have refused to comment on anything. Fencik's new quiet demeanor started after the Bears' close win against Detroit in the second-last week of the season.



Bear Notebook

Fencik was critical of the Bears' play selection and offense after the game. The next day coach Mike Ditka said on WGN radio that Fencik did too much talking.

Richard Dent didn't talk for long one day in the interview room and left after complaining about a toothache. "Nobody is paying me," he said.

The Bears instead have left all the talking for the other teams, and the Redskins have taken some of the bait.

Washington's Dexter Manley complained about the cheap shots he says he took from the Bears during the teams' meeting last year, a 45-10 Bears' win.

Manley said he took a cheap hit from tight end Emery Moorehead because Manley had threatened to take Walter Payton out of the game.

Washington coach Joe Gibbs tried to calm things down, saying, "I can't control everything Manley says. I'd hope he wouldn't say these things. Sometimes I wish he wouldn't say anything at all."

•**WILLIAM PERRY'S WEIGHT** could put him in a different uniform for next year, or so Ditka is saying.

Ditka has talked with Perry about his weight, which was around 350 pounds last week. But Ditka said he didn't mention anything about trading Perry when he talked to him.

Continued Page 6



As William Perry's weight has gone up, the Bears think his effectiveness on defense has gone down. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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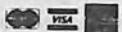
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NFC Championship Game

New York Giants vs. Washington Redskins

Washington
Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
6	Jess Atkinson	K	5-10	180	25	3	Auburn
10	Jay Schroeder	QB	6-4	214	25	3	UCLA
12	Steve Cox	P	6-4	195	28	6	Arkansas
17	Doug Williams	QB	6-4	220	31	6	Grambling
22	Curtis Jordan	FS	6-2	204	32	10	Texas Tech
23	Todd Bowles	S	6-2	203	22	R	Temple
24	Kelvin Bryant	RB	6-2	195	26	1	North Carolina
28	Darrell Green	CB	5-8	170	26	4	Texas A&I
31	Ken Jenkins	RB/KR	5-8	185	27	4	Bucknell
32	Vernon Dean	CB	5-11	178	27	5	San Diego St.
35	Keith Griffin	RB	5-8	185	25	3	Miami (FL)
38	George Rogers	RB	6-2	229	27	6	South Carolina
40	Alvin Walton	S	6-0	180	22	R	Kansas
41	Tom Morrison	CB	6-1	195	23	R	North Carolina
45	Barry Wilburn	CB	6-3	186	22	2	Mississippi
46	Ricky Sanders	RB	5-11	180	24	1	SW Texas St.
48	Ken Coffey	S	6-0	190	26	3	SW Texas St.
51	Monte Coleman	LB	6-2	230	29	8	Central Arkansas
52	Neal Olkewicz	LB	6-0	233	29	8	Maryland
53	Jeff Bostic	C	6-2	260	28	7	Clemson
54	Joe Krakoski	LB	6-1	224	23	1	Washington
56	Calvin Daniels	LB	6-3	241	27	5	North Carolina
57	Rich Milot	LB	6-4	237	29	8	Penn State
58	Shawn Burks	LB	6-1	230	23	R	LSU
60	Dan McQuaid	T	6-7	278	26	2	Nev.-Las Vegas
63	Raleigh McKenzie	G	6-2	262	23	2	Tennessee
64	Steve Hamilton	DE	6-4	260	25	2	East Carolina
65	Dave Butz	DT	6-7	295	36	14	Purdue
66	Joe Jacoby	T	6-7	305	27	6	Louisville
68	Russ Grimm	G	6-3	275	27	6	Pittsburgh
69	R C Thielemann	G	6-4	262	31	10	Arkansas
71	Charles Mann	DE	6-6	270	25	4	Nevada-Reno
72	Dexter Manley	DE	6-3	257	27	6	Oklahoma St.
73	Mark May	T	6-6	295	27	6	Pittsburgh
74	Markus Koch	DE	6-5	275	23	R	Boise State
76	Ron Tilton	G	6-4	250	23	R	Tulane
77	Darryl Grant	DT	6-1	275	26	6	Rice
78	Dean Hamel	DT	6-3	275	25	2	Tulsa
81	Art Monk	WR	6-3	209	28	7	Syracuse
82	Anthony Jones	TE	6-3	248	26	3	Wichita State
84	Gary Clark	WR	5-9	173	23	2	James Madison
85	Don Warren	TE	6-4	242	30	8	San Diego St.
86	Clint Didier	TE	6-5	240	27	5	Portland St.
87	Terry Orr	TE	6-3	227	25	1	Texas
89	Clarence Verdin	WR/KR	5-8	160	23	1	SW Louisiana

HEAD COACH: Joe Gibbs

ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES: Richie Petitbon and Joe Biegel

ASSISTANT COACHES: Larry Peccatiello (defensive coordinator), Don Breaux, Charley Taylor, Jerry Rhone; Warren Simmons, Emmitt Thomas, LaVern "Torgy" Torgeson, Bill Hickman, Wayne Sevier, Dan Riley, John Dunn

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QUARTERBACK PHIL SIMMS

New York Giants
Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Raul Allegre	K	5-10	167	28	4	Texas
5	Sean Landeta	P	6-0	200	25	2	Towson State
11	Phil Simms	QB	6-3	214	22	8	Morehead State
15	Jeff Hostetler	QB	6-3	212	26	3	West Virginia
17	Jeff Rutledge	QB	6-1	195	30	8	Alabama
20	Joe Morris	RB	5-7	195	27	5	Syracuse
22	Lee Rouson	RB	6-1	222	25	2	Colorado
23	Perry Williams	CB	6-2	203	26	3	North Carolina St.
24	Ottis Anderson	RB	6-2	225	30	8	Miami
25	Mark Collins	CB	5-10	190	23	R	Cal St. Fullerton
27	Herb Welch	DB	5-11	180	26	2	UCLA
30	Tony Galbreath	RB	6-0	228	33	11	Missouri
34	Elvis Patterson	DB	5-1	188	27	3	Kansas
43	Terry Kinard	S	6-1	200	28	4	Clemson
44	Maurice Carthon	RB	6-1	225	26	2	Arkansas State
46	Greg Lasker	S	6-0	200	23	R	Arkansas
48	Kenny Hill	S	6-0	195	29	6	Yale
51	Robbie Jones	LB	6-2	230	27	3	Alabama
52	Pepper Johnson	LB	6-3	248	23	R	Ohio State
53	Harry Carson	LB	6-2	240	34	11	S. Carolina St.
54	Andy Headen	LB	6-5	242	27	4	Clemson
55	Gary Reasons	LB	6-4	234	25	3	NW Louisiana St.
56	Lawrence Taylor	LB	6-3	243	28	6	North Carolina
57	Byron Hunt	LB	6-5	242	28	6	SMU
58	Carl Banks	LB	6-4	235	25	3	Michigan St.
59	Brian Johnston	C	6-3	275	25	1	North Carolina
60	Brad Benson	T	6-3	270	32	9	Penn State
61	Chris Godfrey	G	6-3	265	29	4	Michigan
63	Karl Nelson	T	6-6	285	27	3	Iowa State
64	Jim Burt	NT	6-1	260	28	6	Miami
65	Bart Oates	C	6-3	265	28	2	Brigham Young
66	William Roberts	T	6-5	280	25	2	Ohio State
67	Bill Ard	G	6-3	270	28	6	Wake Forest
68	Damian Johnson	T	6-5	290	24	1	Kansas State
70	Leonard Marshall	DE	6-3	285	26	4	LSU
73	John Washington	DE	6-4	275	24	R	Oklahoma St.
75	George Martin	DE	6-4	255	34	12	Oregon
77	Eric Dorsey	DE	6-5	280	23	R	Notre Dame
78	Jerome Sally	NT	6-3	270	28	5	Missouri
80	Phil McConkey	WR	5-10	170	30	3	Navy
81	Stacy Robinson	WR	5-11	186	24	2	N. Dakota St.
84	Zeke Mowatt	TE	6-3	240	27	3	Florida St.
87	Solomon Miller	WR	6-1	185	24	R	Utah St.
88	Bobby Johnson	WR	5-11	171	25	3	Kansas
89	Mark Bavaro	TE	6-4	245	24	2	Notre Dame

HEAD COACH: Bill Parcells

ASSISTANTS: Bill Belichick (defensive coordinator), Ron Erhardt (offensive coordinator), Romeo Crennel (special teams), Len Fontes (secondary), Lamar Leachman (defensive line), Ray Handley (running backs), Fred Hoaglin (offensive line), Pat Hodgson (receivers), Mike Pope (tight ends), Mike Sweatman (defensive assistant), Johnny Parker (strength)

Special to the Bear Report

The Washington Redskins love being an underdog. They went to Chicago for last Saturday's divisional playoff contest and very few people gave them a chance of beating the defending Super Bowl champions. But they shocked the nation by knocking off the Bears 27-13. "No one will believe in us until we win the Super Bowl," says Darrell Green. "That's not a problem for us. I just praise the Lord we keep winning games."

On the other hand, the New York Giants love being a favorite. They finished the regular season campaign with a 14-2 mark and entered the playoffs as the top-seeded team in the NFC. Yet, many people expected the 49ers to pull off an upset over the Giants at the Meadowlands in last Sunday's divisional playoff.

But the Giants silenced their critics with one of the most lopsided victories in recent NFL playoff history. They defeated Bill Walsh's crew 49-3.

"This time of year you don't expect anything to be easy," said Giants' head coach Bill Parcells. "It was the perfect combination of our offense, defense and special teams all playing well."

Walsh was ready to wave the white flag by halftime. "It was a total disintegration," he said. "The Giants are a great team. They played a perfect game today. I think they'll go all the way."

Of course, the Giants can't pack for Pasadena for at least another week. Because next Sunday, the divisional Redskins will travel to New Jersey to battle the Giants in the NFC Championship game. The Giants have already defeated the Redskins twice this season (27-20 and 24-14). History points to a clean sweep. The home team in the NFC Championship has advanced to the Super Bowl for six consecutive seasons.

"Our record doesn't make a damn bit of difference unless we go to the Super Bowl," says Giant Lawrence Taylor. "If we don't go, we'll be just like all the other teams who don't go."

Parcells realizes it won't be easy defeating the Redskins again.

"I think the Redskins are the best team we've played this year. It's a great rivalry. I think it's right that the NFC title comes down to this," he says.

One Redskin who is looking forward to playing the Giants again is Dexter Manley.

"I've got to go out and get even for those two losses," said Manley.

Of course, the Redskins will be a considerable underdog in this game. That suits them just fine.

"Before the Bears game, people said we never had a chance. That's a motivating factor for us. I think we're gonna go all the way to Pasadena," says Manley.

Giants offense vs. Washington defense

Against the 49ers last Sunday, the Giants showed what perfect balance means on offense. Quarterback Phil Simms threw four touchdown passes (a Giant playoff record) and running back Joe Morris ran for two other scores. As a team, the Giants rushed for over 200 yards.

"I thought we prepared real well for this game today," said Simms. "We ran real well and were able to throw deep."

During the regular season, Simms finished fourth in NFC passing (259 of 468 for 3,487 yards, 22 interceptions). He led the Giants to nine consecutive victories before the playoffs including wins over Washington (twice), Dallas, Denver and San Francisco.

Simms' favorite target is Pro Bowl tight end Mark Bavaro. He set a team record for tight ends this season with 1,001 receiving yards on 66 catches. He scored four touchdowns. In last Sunday's playoff game, Bavaro scored a touchdown on a 24-yard pass from Simms. Other targets for Simms include Tony Galbreath (33 for 268) and wide receivers Bobby Johnson (31 for 534, 5 TDs) and Stacy Robinson (29 for 494).

The Giants' running game is led by Pro Bowl-bound Morris. This season, he finished second in NFL rushing with a club-record 1,516 yards on 341 carries. Morris also set

Continued Page 10



GIANTS' TIGHT END MARK BAVARO



GIANTS' LINEBACKER LAWRENCE TAYLOR

Lineups

Washington

New York

Offense

WR 81 Art Monk, 89 Clarence Verdin
TE 85 Don Warren, 82 Anthony Jones
LT 66 Joe Jacoby, 60 Dan McQuaid
LG 68 Russ Grimm, 63 Raleigh McKenzie
C 53 Jeff Bostic, 63 Raleigh McKenzie
RG 69 R C Thielemann, 63 Raleigh McKenzie
RT 73 Mark May, 60 Dan McQuaid
TE 86 Clint Didier, 87 Terry Orr
WR 84 Gary Clark, 46 Ricky Sanders
QB 10 Jay Schroeder, 17 Doug Williams
RB 38 George Rogers, 24 Kelvin Bryant

WR 88 Bobby Johnson, 80 Phil McConkey
LT 60 Brad Benson, 66 William Roberts
LG 67 Billy Ard, 68 Damian Johnson
C 65 Bart Oates, 59 Brian Johnson
RG 61 Chris Godfrey, 68 Damian Johnson
RT 63 Karl Nelson, 66 William Roberts
TE 89 Mark Bavaro, 84 Zeke Mowatt
WR 81 Stacy Robinson, 87 Solomon Miller
QB 11 Phil Simms, 17 Jeff Rutledge
RB 20 Joe Morris, 22 Lee Rouson
RB 44 Maurice Carthon, 24 Ottis Anderson

Defense

LE 71 Charles Mann, 64 Steve Hamilton
LT 65 Dave Butz, 77 Darryl Grant
RT 77 Darryl Grant, 78 Dean Hamel
RE 72 Dexter Manley, 74 Markus Koch
LLB 56 Calvin Daniels, 51 Monte Coleman
MLB 52 Neal Olkewicz, 58 Shawn Burks
RLB 57 Rich Milot, 51 Monte Coleman
LCB 28 Darrell Green, 41 Tim Morrison
RCB 45 Barry Wilburn, 32 Vernon Dean
SS 40 Alvin Walton, 48 Ken Coffey
FS 22 Curtis Jordan, 23 Todd Bowles

LE 75 George Martin, 77 Eric Dorsey
NG 64 Jim Burt, 78 Jerome Sally
RE 70 Leonard Marshall, 73 John Washington
LLB 58 Carl Banks, 57 Byron Hunt
ILB 55 Gary Reasons, 51 Robbie Jones
ILB 53 Harry Carson, 52 Pepper Johnson
RLB 56 Lawrence Taylor, 54 Andy Headen
LC 25 Mark Collins, 34 Elvin Patterson
RC 23 Perry Williams, 25 Mark Collins
SS 48 Kenny Hill, 46 Greg Lasker
FS 43 Terry Kinard, 27 Herb Welch

Specialists

P 12 Steve Cox, 10 Jay Schroeder
K 6 Jess Atkinson, 12 Steve Cox
PC 53 Jeff Bostic, 77 Darryl Grant
KC 53 Jeff Bostic, 77 Darryl Grant
PR 31 Ken Jenkins, 89 Clarence Verdin
KR 31 Ken Jenkins, 89 Clarence Verdin
H 10 Jay Schroeder, 17 Doug Williams

PK 2 Raul Allegre
P 5 Sean Landeta
H 17 Jeff Rutledge, 15 Jeff Hostetler
LS 65 Bart Oates
PR 80 Phil McConkey, 25 Mark Collins
KOR 80 Phil McConkey, 87 Solomon Miller

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No Flutie miracles for Bears Saturday

Doug Flutie had a rough day in his second start as a Bear against Washington Saturday. While trying to run from a strong Redskins rush, Flutie completed just 11 of 31 passes for 134 yards. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Giants

Continued From Page 8

a Giant record with eight 100-yard games. He rushed for 159 yards last Sunday. His 14 touchdowns give him a career total of 40, breaking Alex Webster's team mark of 39. Last Sunday, Morris had touchdown runs of 45 and two yards. Former USFL standout Maurice Carthon (72 for 260), and former Cardinal Ottis Anderson (75 for 237) also are threats on the ground. New York's offensive line features Pro Bowl tackle Brad Benson.

Washington's defense had trouble with the Giants in their two previous meetings this season, but did a spectacular job against the Bears last Saturday. They held the Bears to 202 yards while forcing three turnovers. All three led to scores by the Washington offense. The defense continually forced Bear quarterback Doug Flutie to throw the ball up for grabs.

"We put good pressure on quarterbacks," says Redskin coach Joe Gibbs. "We've been a good pass-rush team all year long. That's the character of this team."

The rush is led by Manley. He set a club record with

18.5 sacks during the regular season. Other defensive standouts include Green (team-high 5 int.), and linebackers Neal Olkewicz (8 solo tackles, 2 assists, 1 sack vs. Bears) and Monte Coleman (4 solo tackles, 2 assists, 2 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery vs. Bears).

Washington offense vs. New York defense

Washington's offense finished fifth in the NFL during the regular season, averaging 350 yards per game. While the unit netted only 302 yards vs. the Bears last Saturday, it showed a lot of variety and moved the ball quite well. The Redskins rushed for 134 yards while passing for 168.

"We were just trying to mix and match on offense," said Gibbs. "We were trying to be patient and take our shots. It was really a normal type offensive game plan."

Redskin quarterback Jay Schroeder, who finished the regular season with a club-record 4,109 yards passing, continually burned the Bears on blitzes. He completed 15 of 32 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns. He was intercepted once.

"I thought coming into the game if we could score 21 points, we'd be very satisfied. Our defense came up with turnovers and gave us great field position throughout the game," said Schroeder.

Schroeder used his compliment of great receivers well. Pro Bowl wide receivers Art Monk (5 for 81, 2 TDs) and Gary Clark (5 for 37) drove the Bear cornerbacks crazy. Running back Kelvin Bryant (4 for 61) also played well.

Washington's ground game also gave the Bear defense problems. George Rogers rushed for 72 yards and one touchdown, while Bryant compiled 46 yards.

The Redskins may have a tough time running next Sunday, considering the Giants led the NFL in rush defense this season, allowing just 80 yards a game on the ground. As a unit, the Giants finished second to the Bears in NFL defense (297 per game). League MVP Lawrence Taylor, the perennial All-Pro linebacker, led the NFL in sacks this year with 20.5. Against the 49ers last Sunday, he scored a touchdown on a 34-yard interception return.

"I was surprised I caught it. I haven't intercepted a pass in two years," said Taylor.

Fellow linebacker Carl Banks, who led the Giants in tackles this season with 120, also did a great job against the 49ers. The other two starting linebackers, Harry Carson (118 tackles) and Gary Reasons (96 tackles), also will give the Redskins problems. Schroeder and company also have to be wary of Leonard Marshall (12 sacks), Jim Burt (61 tackles), Perry Williams (team-high four interceptions).

Bears playing to fives and drums this year

The Bears couldn't get another runaway season by mail-order, after all. Many fans, and even some players, hoped they could pick up where they left off last season. It doesn't work that way. "Each season is special in its own way," fullback Matt Suhey says.

But some seasons are more special than others. Some seasons inspire more dancing in streets and barking at moons. This season wasn't one of them. This season was a long, determined grunt.

By
Kevin
Lamb



"I had fun blowing people out last year," tight end Tim Wrightman says. But what about the challenge of this year? They're supposed to be sweeter when you have to fight to the end to eke out a victory. Aren't they?

"When you win a close game that should be close, that's satisfying," Wrightman says. "When you win a close game that should have been a blowout, that's frustrating."

But it was last year that was different, not this year. Last year was a fairy tale. Last year's glass slippers produced this year's corns.

"I don't think we can duplicate that feeling we had last year," Walter Payton says.

William Perry couldn't even duplicate being William Perry, although he certainly tried to expand on it. In a nut-

shell, the difference between last year and this year is: Perry fumbled the only time he carried the ball this year.

Last year, the Bears rubbed it in. This year, they rubbed their wounds.

If they played last year to brass bands and balloons, they played this year to fives and drums. It was the difference between dancing and marching.

"Last year was a party," defensive tackle Steve McMichael says. "This year has been football."

It was good football. The Bears went 14-2, tied for the NFL's best record. "And I'm still not convinced the Rams beat us," safety Dave Duerson says of the last-second defeat that ended their hopes of matching last year's 15-1.

The Bears won games without a quarterback and without harmony. They won several because they simply would not lose.

This year has been more satisfying

"It's been a lot more work," guard Tom Thayer says. "Last year, we won a lot of games convincingly. This year, we had to work into the fourth quarter and overtime."

"I think it's been good for us. It keeps everybody motivated into the fourth quarter."

What it lacked in fun, it made up for in satisfaction.

"Exactly," Duerson says. "Defending a world championship, with all the pressures on us, 14-2 at this point is much sweeter than 15-1 last year."

It was the difference between overwhelming and overcoming. "Once you look back on it, it's more amazing we're 14-2 with all the adversity we had on and off the field," kicker Kevin Butler says. "It was a longer, harder road than it was last year."

It was the difference between sleight-of-hand magic and fingers-to-the-bone work. The difference between a grizzled, punky quarterback thumbing his nose at convention and a young, earnest quarterback learning the plays on his wristband. The difference between appearing on talk shows and appearing in gossip columns. The difference between cruise control and parallel parking.

The difference between honeymoons and anniversaries.

"It's very difficult to keep a club together for the second (championship) year," general manager Jerry Vainisi says. "There are the normal distractions that come from win-

ning, plus the extra ones because so many of our players were in the public eye. It's been a very trying year."

There were jealousies among the Bears, and toward the Bears from outside. The hardest thing about repeating, virtually all of them say, is that every opponent has given them its best.

Vainisi calls this season coach Mike Ditka's "greatest challenge and his best job. We'll have had to overcome a lot more hurdles to win it all this year."

They had to overcome more injuries, including the one that effectively took Jim McMahon away in the season opener. They had to overcome the pressure of expectations, more from themselves and Ditka than from the fans. They had to overcome the loss of a defensive coordinator whom the players themselves called their MVP.

"We just weren't going to be able to do it," Ditka says. "We wouldn't even know how to line up on defense this year. But we figured it out."

With Vince Tobin replacing Buddy Ryan, the defense set a scoring record for a 16-game season. It ranked No. 1 in yardage for the third straight season. It allowed more than one touchdown in only one of the last 15 games. It allowed a rushing touchdown in none of the last eight.

The defense may not have been so spectacular this year. It rarely stuffed opponents so deeply that only their upside-down shoes stuck out of the ground. But it was just as efficient. It was better, considering it had to protect leads that were thinner than flophouse walls.

It produced only two fewer sacks against many fewer quarterbacks who had to play catch-up. It had four players with eight sacks or more; only two other NFL teams had even three.

It also sacked the notion that Ryan was the puppeteer who made the defense work. The players did it. "Definitely, the players," Duerson says.

Ditka is at his best when he has dares to take and dragons to slay. Last year he had to create the monsters, like a counselor telling ghost stories at the campfire. The season went too smoothly. This year, dares fell on Ditka like last year's confetti. Can't win without Ryan? Can't win without McMahon? Just what he wanted to hear.

Continued Page 15



Like most Bears this year, Tim Wrightman thinks blowing out teams was a lot more fun than winning close ones this year. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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'86 Bears similar to '84 team

Compiled by David Marran and Michael Polzin

The Bears' starting line-up on Saturday was basically the same as it was when they played the Redskins in the playoffs in 1984.

The only changes on offense from the 1984 meeting were at quarterback and wide receiver. In 1984, Steve Fuller replaced the injured Jim McMahon while on Saturday, Doug Flutie assumed that role. At wide receiver in '84, Dennis McKinnon started but Keith Ortego started on Saturday because of McKinnon's season-long injured knee.



Playoff Notebook

The defense saw a few more changes. At left end, Mike Hartenstine started the '84 game but Dan Hampton assumed that role Saturday. Hampton started the '84 game at right tackle but William "The Refrigerator" Perry started there on Saturday. At right linebacker, Al Harris got the nod in the '84 game but when Harris sat out the entire '85 season, Wilber Marshall took his job and was there on Saturday.

At cornerback, Terry Schmidt started the '84 contest but has since retired and rookie Vestee Jackson started there on Saturday. Todd Bell started the '84 game at safety but, like Harris, sat out the Super Bowl season and lost his job. Dave Duerson has since taken over.

It should also be noted that kicker Bob Thomas has since given way to Kevin Butler and punter Dave Finzer lost his job to Maury Buford.

•PRIOR TO SATURDAY'S game, wild-card teams play-



Richard Dent gets to Washington quarterback Jay Schroeder for the Bears' only sack of the day Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

ing with only one week's rest were 1-7.

•ONE OF THE BIGGEST surprises of Saturday's game was the way the Redskins kept going after cornerback Mike Richardson, especially after his first-quarter interception return of 43 yards. Richardson has had past success against the Redskins in the interception department. In last year's 45-10 romp at Soldier Field, Richardson intercepted a Joe Theismann pass and ran 90-yards for a touchdown. In the Bears' 23-10 playoff win over Washing-

ton in 1984, Richardson also intercepted a Theismann pass.

•LINEBACKER MIKE SINGLETARY and All-Pro safety Dave Duerson thought the problem with the blitz on Saturday was that the Bears might have shown it too often.

"It's one thing to pick up the blitz, it's another thing to know you're going to blitz even before you blitz," said Singletary. "At times, we were a little careless as far as showing him (Redskins quarterback Jay Schroeder) the blitz more than we should have."

"You can't just sit up there all day and let the quarterback know the blitz is coming," Duerson said.

Duerson also thought that the injuries to the Redskin offensive line really didn't play that big of a role in stopping the blitz.

"If you get your body in the way, you are going to stop the blitz," said Duerson. "The philosophy of the blitz is that you have to get to the quarterback in three or four seconds. Their (the line's) feet were fine. But it wasn't their line's ability to pick up the blitz that beat us, we beat ourselves. When we had to make the plays, we didn't."

•SCHROEDER HAD NOTHING but praise for the line which allowed him to be sacked just two times on Saturday.

"The offensive line did a fantastic job today, there is no two ways about it," said the former UCLA baseball star. "They knew they were in for a battle, a man-on-man battle, and they blocked everybody out and we came out on top today."

•THE THREE TOUCHDOWNS the Redskins scored against the Bear defense on Saturday were the most scored against the Bears since the team's 23-0 loss at Minnesota in week five.

Before Saturday's meeting, the Bears had won five of the last six meetings against the Redskins dating back to 1975. . . Saturday's win over the Bears brought the Redskins' playoff record to 3-3 against Chicago.

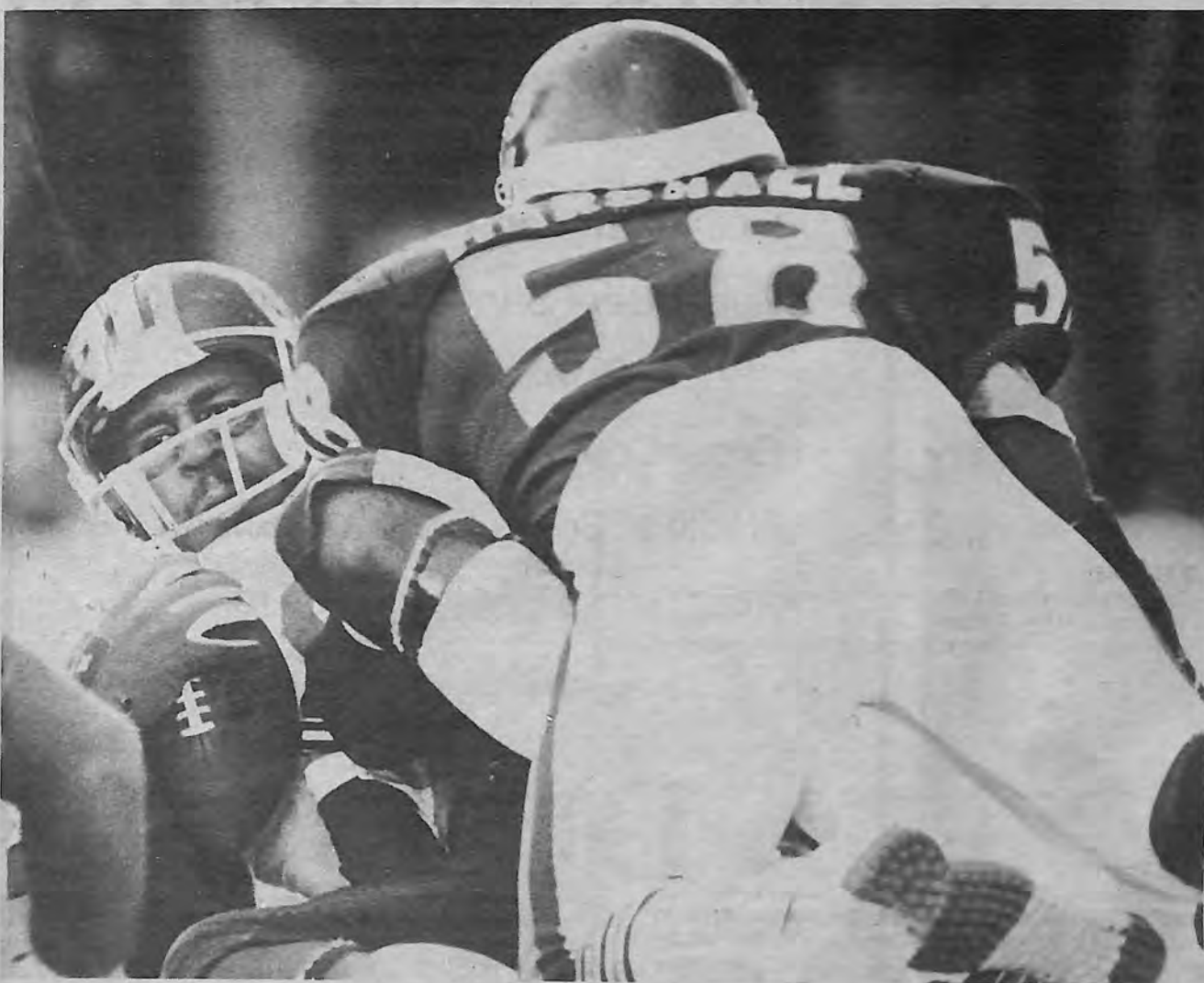
•SINGLETARY THOUGHT THAT the Bears prepared well for Saturday's game.

"I thought we had a super week's work," he said. "We were really prepared well for this game and I still think that. We had one of the best week's work we ever had but things didn't go the way we anticipated."

Singletary refused to dwell on Saturday's loss after the game.

"After a game like this, you need some time to think about what you're doing," he said. "We know it's right and we know it's good but as soon as the game was over, I started thinking about Platteville."

•QUARTERBACK DOUG FLUTIE didn't offer any explanation for his 11 of 31 performance against Washington. "I felt comfortable. Things just weren't clicking," he said. Flutie also didn't enter the game looking at it as a learn-



Wilber Marshall stops George Rogers on this play for one of his four tackles against Washington Saturday. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Continued Page 6

Gibbs' speech doesn't rate X by players

Maybe it was the impending prospect of playing the Bears in Soldier Field where his team lost 45-10 last year. But normally mild-mannered Washington coach Joe Gibbs, whose Redskins beat the Rams in the NFC wild-card game Dec. 28, was tighter than William Perry's belt before that game.

At halftime of the Skins' Dec. 21 21-14 win over Philadelphia, Gibbs went on the rampage — mainly because the Redskins were trailing 14-0. He started by throwing a chair against the wall. Then he strafed a table top full of oranges.

The players were amused but not surprised Gibbs never once used a four-letter word. The worst thing he said was, "You'll get your butts kicked."

The four-letter words came later when former Bear Richie Petitbon, Washington's defensive coordinator, fol-

By
Brian
Hewitt



NFL Notebook

lowed Gibbs. "Richie's was a more X-rated version of what coach Gibbs said the first time," said Redskin safety Curtis Jordan. "The first speech was PG and the next was X-rated."

KICK START:

Washington still hasn't completely solved its season long placekicking problems, and that figured to be a major factor when the Redskins met the Bears. Gibbs replaced slumping Max Zendejas with Jess Atkinson in Week 16 and Atkinson converted three extra points in as many tries. Atkinson was four-for-four from short range in the wild-card game. But last year three teams cut Atkinson. Zendejas is on injured reserve.

MISSING:

Gibbs dumped Zendejas following Week 15 after he missed two field goals and an extra point in a 31-30 loss to Denver.

"If this had been a big game, he (Zendejas) probably would have been running out of here to get the first plane south of the border to save his life," Jordan said after the defeat.

On the same subject, Redskin defensive end Dexter Manley told a radio audience, "No mas."

Washington center Jeff Bostic suggested Zendejas start snapping the ball and Bostic start kicking.

MAD MAX:

Zendejas finally surfaced angrily. "To tell you the truth I don't appreciate what Curtis Jordan or Jeff Bostic or Dexter Manley had to say," he said. "I don't go around saying anything about them when they make mistakes. And I'm pretty sure they're making mistakes. Jeff Bostic has had bad games. So have Curtis Jordan and Dexter Manley, I'm sure."

PLAY IT AGAIN:

The controversial instant replay may survive after all. Its use as an officiating tool improved in the second half of the season.

"I think after we improved the communication technology it worked very well the second half of the season," said Dallas general manager Tex Schramm, a member of the NFL's influential Competition Committee. "I think everybody in the league has the same object and that is to eliminate mistakes or calls that should have been made in a different manner."

"You're not challenging the integrity or the judgment of the officials and I think they'll get to know that."

The main technological communications improvement was switching from walkie-talkies to headsets.

"The only question in the system is getting the right people in the right spots," Schramm added. "And I think that can be helped a great deal by possibly using members of the existing officiating crews rather than retired officials or league officials."

Schramm also warned the playoffs could be very important to the future of the instant replay as an officiating tool.



Tim Wrightman didn't get far after catching this pass from Doug Flutie during the Bears' 27-13 loss to Washington. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

NEAL IN PRAYER:

The NFL draft works in strange ways. Strange that Florida running back Neal Anderson was available for the Bears when their first pick (27th) came last spring. The Bears aren't just selling wolf tickets when they insist Anderson would have had a better year than New Orleans rookie running back Rueben (cq) Mayes if Anderson hadn't had to understudy Walter Payton.

Stranger still is the name of the player the Bears would have selected if Anderson hadn't been available. That player would have been Lion cornerback Devon Mitchell. Mitchell started and played well for Detroit. But he was a relative unknown on draft day.

"All that sweating we did went for nought last year because they (the other teams) left him (Anderson) there," said Bear personnel boss Bill Tobin. "I don't know why. It was a quirk in the draft."

WHO'S HOT:

And who's not.

The hottest team in the league entering the playoffs is the Giants. They've won nine straight. The Bears have won seven in a row, Cleveland five.

Here's a rundown of each of the eight remaining playoff teams with their record over the last five regular season weeks followed by their record over the last three:

Giants (5-0, 3-0), Bears (5-0, 3-0), Browns (5-0, 3-0), 49ers (4-1, 3-0), Redskins (3-2, 1-2), Patriots (3-2, 1-2), Broncos (2-3, 1-2), Jets (0-5, 0-3).

GO FIGURE:

Ram defensive back LeRoy Irvin before the NFC wild-card game at RFK Stadium:

"We didn't want to go to Washington. But since we have to go to Washington, I love to go to Washington."

The Rams practiced in pads all week, a departure from their normal late season routine. They insisted it was no big deal. "If it's jocks and high heels, I don't care," said running back Eric Dickerson. "Whatever it takes."

Dickerson's three lost fumbles left him looking for his own jock.

NOTES AND QUOTES: For the first time in NFL history four teams finished the regular season with two 1,000-yard receivers. They are: Jets Wesley Walker (1,016) and Al Toon (1,176), Redskins Gary Clark (1,265) and Art Monk (1,068), Dolphins Mark Clayton (1,150) and Mark Duper (1,313) and Oilers Drew Hill (1,112) and Ernest Givins (1,062). . . . Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar set a club record for lowest interception percentage. He threw

10 interceptions in 531 attempts for a 1.88 (every 100) rate. The old mark was 2.0 set by Milt Plum in 1965. . . . When the Giants faced the 49ers Jan. 4, they had been 77 days without a loss. . . . Jets defensive coordinator Bud Carson on the 621 yards his unit allowed the Bengals in Week 16: "To come back now would take a miracle." That total was an all-time Jets worst. . . . San Diego linebacker Billy Ray Smith was miffed about his omission from the AFC Pro Bowl squad and had this to say about it: "ABC-TV is repeating the circus of the stars on Feb. 1 and I want to catch it." The Pro Bowl is Feb. 1 in Honolulu.

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Bears' blitz plays into Schroeder's hands

By David Marran
Special to the Bear Report

Redskin quarterback Jay Schroeder hoped the Bears would blitz a lot during Saturday's playoff game at Soldier Field.

Why would a quarterback want the Bears to smother him? Didn't Schroeder realize that the blitz was an integral part of the Bears' No. 1 ranked defense and had sent quarterback after quarterback limping to the sidelines?

By game's end, Schroeder had his wish and a 27-13 victory. The Bears did blitz a lot, as they do every game, but Schroeder was able to use the all-out rush to his advantage.

"During the course of the week, our offensive coaches give us every possible look imaginable," said Schroeder with the game ball tucked under his arm. "We were ready for the blitz and that was one of the keys because we knew what to expect."

The blitz often left his receivers open or in man-to-man coverage and that is where the Bear defense broke down, according to head coach Mike Ditka.

"The (pass) coverage was not good (on the blitzes)," said Ditka. "The blitzes got there."

"If you're going to blitz effectively, you have to have a well-designed blitz, which we did, but you also have to have some coverage."

Schroeder, who completed 15 of 32 passes for 184 yards and two touchdowns, first took advantage of the Bear blitz on Washington's second possession when he hit wide receiver Art Monk with a 28-yard touchdown pass to put his team ahead, 7-0.

No bumps hurt Bears' blitz

"He had no time to throw at all on the first touchdown to Monk but he got it there because we had no bump on

the receivers," Ditka said.

Monk beat cornerback Mike Richardson, who had a rough afternoon despite returning Schroeder's only interception 43-yards in the first quarter.

With the Bears up 13-7 in the third quarter, Monk beat Richardson again for a touchdown and, again, the Bears were blitzing.

"They beat Mike on a take-off for a touchdown and they came back again with a take-off for a touchdown," Ditka said. "(In the future) they're going to continue to work on him until he doesn't bite on that take-off."

Richardson, and the Bear blitz, were the victims again on the Redskins' next score.

With Washington ahead 14-13 in the fourth quarter, Schroeder threw a pass to Monk that was batted away by Richardson in the end zone.

However, Richardson was called for pass interference and the Redskins got the ball at the Bears' 1-yard line. Two plays later, George Rogers bulled into the end zone to give Washington an insurmountable 21-13 lead.

"It was a terrible call," Richardson said. "I thought he interfered with me. They (the referees) said I had my right hand on him. I thought he was holding my hand but I wasn't holding him."

"In a situation like that, they might use the replay and it would be obvious that there was no interference."

Richardson not a weak link

Richardson would seem the unlikely cornerback for the Redskins to "work on," as Ditka put it.

Entering Saturday's playoff game, the fourth-year veteran had only been burned once for a touchdown and that was on the final play in the last regular season game on a defensive mix-up. In addition, the former Arizona State All-American led the Bears with nine interceptions.

Richardson's teammates and coaches refused to put

the blame solely on him. The consensus was that the Redskins executed well and the Bear defense beat itself all afternoon.

"They did a good job on our blitzes," said linebacker Mike Singletary. "We did some things that we should have done better at times."

"At times, they really outsmarted us in what we were trying to do and we didn't have the discipline to stay in there. We didn't make good decisions on the field."

"Against a good team, you're going to have to make good decisions or they're going to kill you."

Singletary also thought the Washington offense did a good job.

"It makes a difference when you're playing against a quarterback like Jay Schroeder," Singletary said. "If you don't get him and don't put pressure on him, that makes all the difference in the world."

Singletary's teammate, All-Pro safety Dave Duerson, believed the Bears were putting good pressure on Schroeder but that the Redskins executed well.

"They couldn't keep the pressure off the quarterback but, at the same time, when they had to make a play, they made the blocks," Duerson said.

Injuries don't slow down Washington

A majority of those key blocks were made by the Washington offensive line which allowed the Bears just two sacks despite injuries to guards Russ Grimm and Joe Jacoby.

"Whenever you're supposed to be playing against guys who are beat up or hurt, it's like playing against a wounded animal," said Singletary.

"Their line up front did a good job. They're a smart offensive line and they have played together well for a number of years."

Despite the loss and the fact the Bear defense surrendered 302 yards, about 44 over their per game average, and 27 points, about 16 over their per game average, Ditka still felt it was a good year for the club.

"You can't take away from this football team what we have accomplished under some adverse situations this year," Ditka said. "I think the credit goes to the assistant coaches and the players for what they did do."

"I take my hat off to the way they played all year and for the record they attained and the job our coaches did with them. I am very proud of that."

Duerson went one step further.

"I'm still not convinced that the best team won but that is hindsight," he said.



Chicago's Richard Dent and Washington's Joe Jacoby are broken up by the referee during Saturday's win by the Redskins. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Dream

Continued From Page 3

"We've been plagued all year by turnovers and turnovers hurt us again. I just don't think it was a good example of our kind of football. But you have to give credit to Washington. They put some pressure on us and made the plays they had to make."

Bears don't play flawless ball

"We knew we had to play flawless football today. That's the thing that didn't happen," Singletary said. "Once you get in the playoffs you can't do that. You can get away

with it once or twice — maybe. And that may come back to haunt you."

"I believe that we could win with what we had. In order to win with what we had, we had to play flawlessly. If we had done that, they don't win."

Despite the loss Ditka said the Bears should still be proud of what they accomplished. "I don't think you can ever take away from this football team and what we've accomplished," he said. "The credit goes to the assistant coaches and the players for what they did do. I'll take the blame for what we didn't do."

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Fans Should Show More Class

Dear Doug,
As a Bear fan, I have taken a lot of abuse from the Packer fans in Wisconsin. I don't care, I just shrug it off.

I have watched all the Bear games this season and it really gets me upset to see some of these so called "Bear fans" booing at them when they are having a tough time.

What I don't understand too is that everybody is comparing the Bears this year to last year's team. They say the Bears are not as good and that the defense is not as good. How can they say that? The Bears are 13-2, after the Detroit game and the defense is ranked number one. Now is that something to be ashamed of? I don't think so.

I wish some of the Bears fans would get their act together and start supporting them, instead of tearing them down when the going gets tough. Come on Bear fans, show some class!

I'm behind the Bears 100 percent going into the playoffs. I also think that they can make it again all the way to Super Bowl XXI.

I'd also like to comment on one other thing. It's about a letter by Kevin Hendryx of Austin, TX in the Dec. 22 issue of the Bear Report. He said that when the great Walter Payton retires, the Bears should put a number "34" on the right sleeve of the Bears' uniforms. I agree with him. That "Magic 34" should stay alive in the Bears' football team forever. Walter's an inspiration to us all!

Kerry Borlcowski
Adams-Friendship, WI

Looking For More Play-By-Play

Dear Doug,
For those of us who do not get regular radio or TV coverage of the Bear games, unless it happens to be a U.S. cable TV game on Sunday, we tune in the radio at night and pick up WBBM and WGN with Bear news. I was wondering if it is possible to print up a play-by-play of the game. I noted the press release of the last Super Bowl did this, and I found it helpful to know each play; who made the tackle, who caught the pass or ran, etc. It gives one a feel for the game and who played significant roles.

Jon T. Keekley,
Ottawa, Canada

Editor's note: We couldn't run a play-by-play every week, so instead we try to put as much of it as possible in the game story.

Impressed With Flutie

Dear Doug,
After watching Doug Flutie on Monday Night Football against the Detroit Lions, I was impressed with him. He did make some critical mistakes, but so did Jim McMahon when he was starting out. He did pick up the blitzes very well. The offensive line better start protecting their quarterback even if it is Doug. It will be tough to beat the New York Giants or any other team, but it can be done with a team effort.

Bob Misanik
Sparks, NV

Bears Are Laughing Now

Dear Doug,
This is in response to a letter you received a few months ago from a Mr. Johnson, another ignorant, egotistical fan, concerning a banner he was going to display during the Dallas-Chicago game.

I just wanted to say that I watched the game and never did see that banner, apparently just another idle threat from a frustrated fan.

Mr. Johnson, I'll tell you who's laughing now. The Chicago Bears, their fans and the entire sports world, and the great thing about it is, we did it in your own back yard.

Terry Ogg
Convoy, OH

Bears Record Says It All

Dear Doug,
In regards to John Johnson's letter from Dallas (Nov. 17 issue), it's great to see justice done. The following says it all:

Bears 24, Cowboys 10
Bears 14-2 (going to be World Champs again!)
Cowboys 7-9 (going nowhere)
Need I say more, John?

Bill Retseck
Michigan City, IN

Lamb

Continued From Page 11

Offensive line is at its best

He gave the offensive line a dare, too. Much of the season, Ditka and offensive coordinator Ed Hughes talked as if the linemen couldn't block a tree. But the Bears wound up cutting their sacks nearly in half, despite inexperienced quarterbacks, and winning their fourth straight NFL rushing title, even though Walter Payton had his third-fewest carries and second-fewest yards in a 16-game season.

The line play was where their biggest edge over last year surfaced. There are advantages to losing the thrill of newness.

"Last year we didn't know how good we were," Suhey says. "We were just so darn scared. This year, we understood how good we can be. We know what we have to get done."

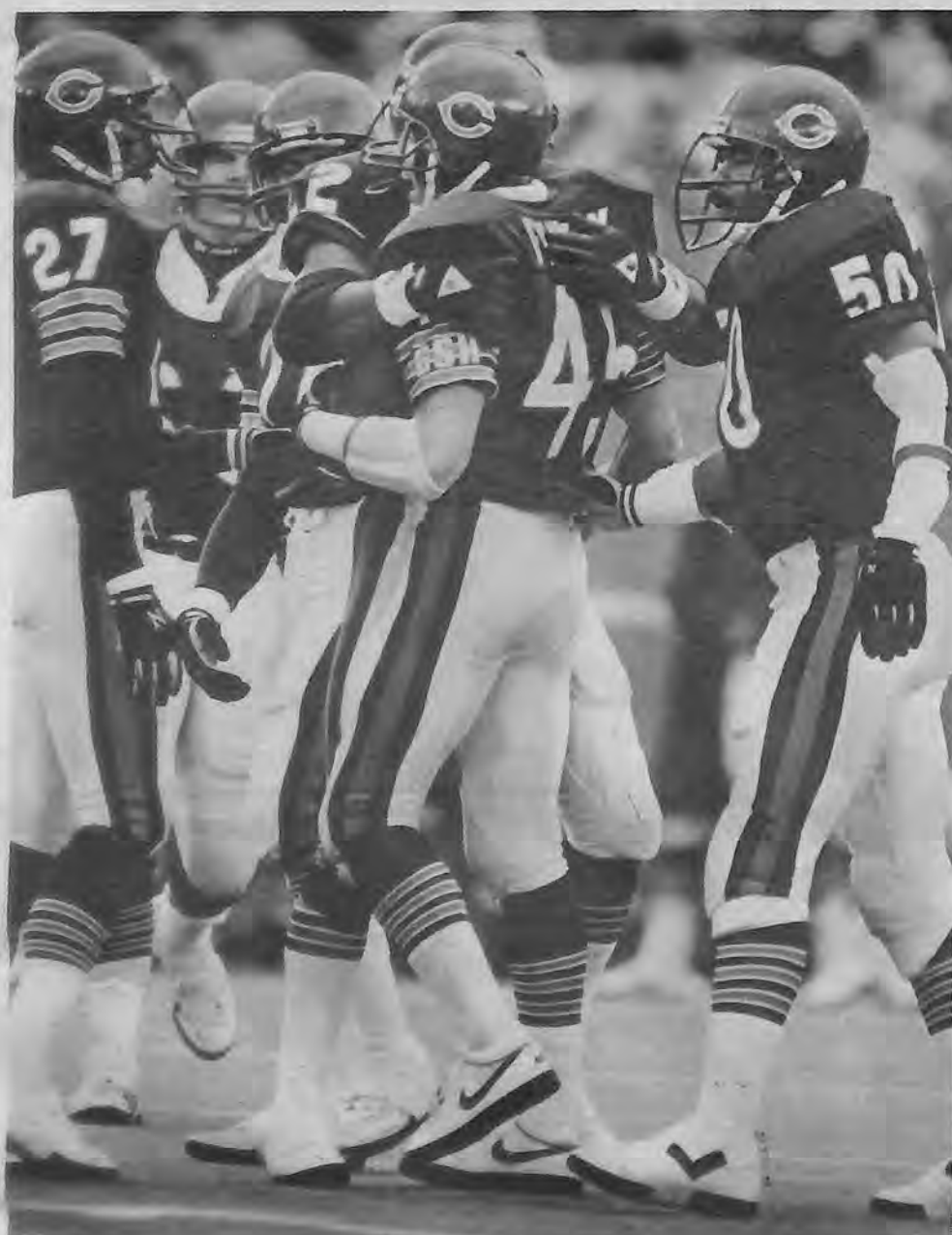
They know it doesn't include barking at opponents. It doesn't include cutting records and videos. It doesn't even include winning 44-0 or 36-0.

"We've always known we could win even if something bad happened," tackle Jimbo Covert says. "We know we're better than the other team but we've been beating ourselves. Once you know that, you start playing better."

They knew there was hope. That's a powerful motivator, especially in a game where pain is the motivation to ease up. When players talked about learning the winning habit, they mean they've discovered it's worthwhile to push themselves to new levels of discomfort for higher levels of performance.

"Last year was so fast, so new, we got caught up in it," Duerson says. "This year, we've kept things in perspective. We've matured as a football team. We've crossed into that area of the old Cowboys and Steelers who expected to win."

They're a team to count on for the next few years. The flourish may not always be there, but the victories will.



One of the highlights of the year for the Bears was Gary Fencik breaking Rich Petitbon's Bear record for career interceptions. Petitbon is now a defensive coach for the Redskins. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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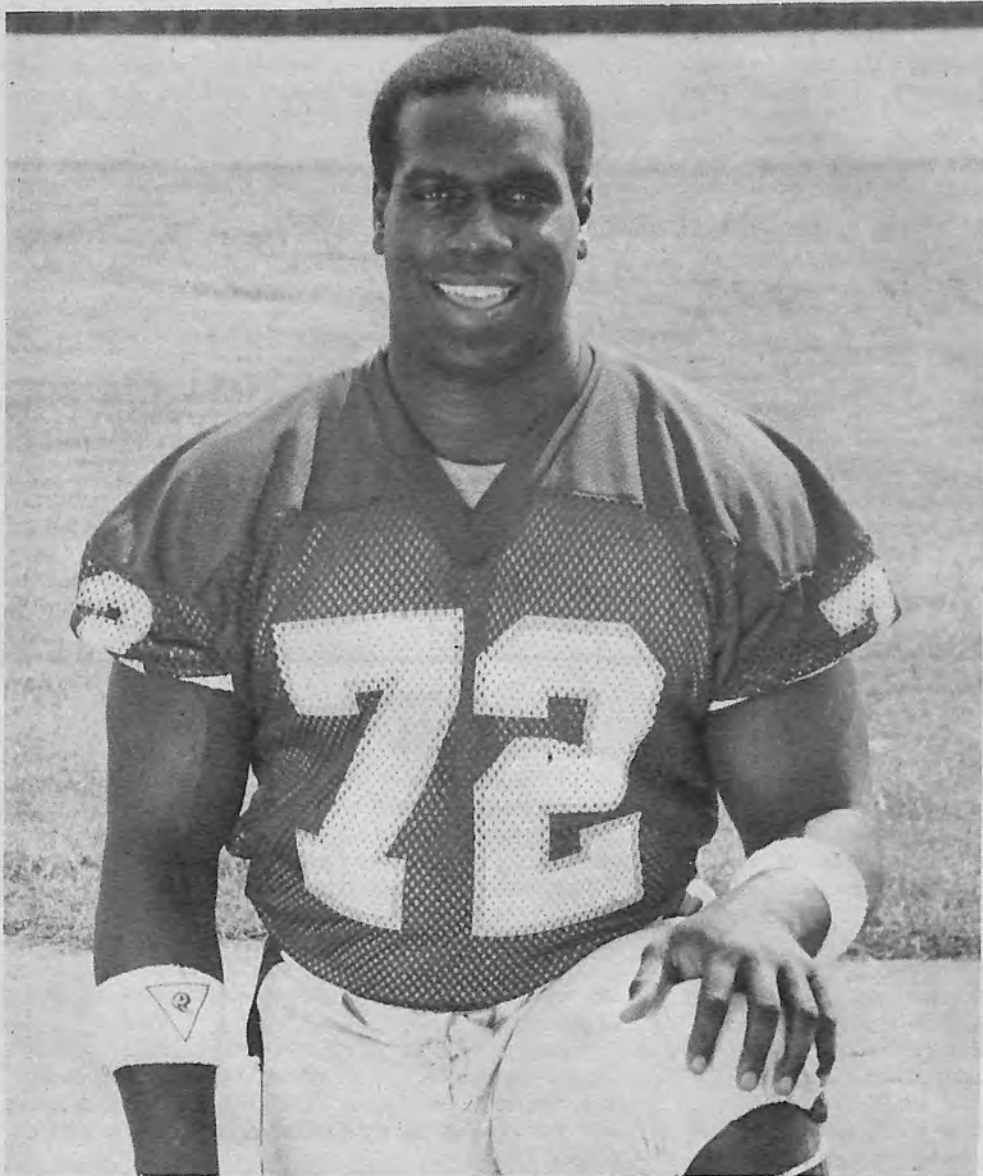
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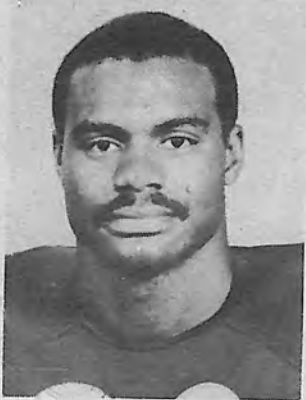
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